

## Cold Spring City Council Special Meeting December 14, 2009

The special meeting of the Cold Spring City Council, as advertised, was called to order by Mayor Mark Stoeber, who stated that normally the caucus meeting would be held this evening; however, a special meeting has been called since the regularly scheduled city council meeting on December 28<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Roll call vote showed that the council members present were Lou Gerding, Brenda Helton, Rob Moore, Stuart Oehrle, Janis Reiman, and Sandy Ross. Also present were Police Chief Ed Burk, City Clerk Rita Seger, Administrative Officer Michael Vank, and City Attorney Brandon Voelker.

Mayor Stoeber pointed out the exit instructions, per Fire Department regulations.

The city office will be closed on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. The city office will also be closed on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

As published on our website and newsletter, with the Christmas and New Year's holidays falling on a Friday, trash pickup will be delayed one day, with pickup on Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Light Up Cold Spring contest was held on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The mayor and council toured the city to come up with potential winners. Stuart Oehrle and Rob Moore excused themselves from this discussion since they were out of town that night. After comparing notes, Amanda and Brian Rauch, of 2203 Uhl Road were declared winners of the 2009 Light Up Cold Spring contest. They will receive a mantle plaque, and a sign declaring them as the contest winner will be placed in their yard. Mary Lou Schmidt of 4 Sturbridge Drive was declared as honorable mention. She will receive an ornament. Thanks to all of the residents for their beautiful displays and thanks especially to the winners.

Chief Ed Burk invited Police Officer Les Caudill, his wife and his mother to step forward. Chief Burk stated that Officer Caudill has announced his retirement at the end of this month and it is an honor and a privilege to congratulate him on his years of service. Officer Caudill graduated from the Police Academy and started his career serving the community of Newport in 1987. He began his service with the Cold Spring Police Department in 1998. He initiated the Fishing Derby, sharing his love of something that he enjoys doing with our youth, encouraging the children to do something other than getting into trouble. Officer Caudill has been on the County Accident Reconstruction Team and he was the first officer in the city to receive his Kentucky Law Enforcement Council Professional Certificate. Officer Caudill also received the Intermediate Law Enforcement Officer Certificate, Advanced Law Enforcement Officer Certificate, and Law Enforcement Traffic Officer Certificate. To get those certificates, you have to have a certain amount of training and experience and meet the qualifications. Chief Burk is proud that Officer Caudill has been on our department.

Chief Burk presented to Officer Caudill his shield, officer's ID, and duty weapon as tokens of service to the community. These tokens do not pay for the amount of time, service and dedication that he has committed to the community. Most people work normal day jobs Monday thru Friday, but police officers work all hours, days and shifts, missing many holidays and meals with their families as well as other family events. There is worry from police officers' families about their safety and whether or not they will make it home. A bouquet of red roses was presented to Officer Caudill's wife Paeru. They are a token of the Police Department's love, respect, and courage for allowing Officer Caudill to pursue his profession.

Mayor Mark Stoeber then read and presented a proclamation to Les Caudill, thanking and honoring him for his service to our community and congratulating him on his retirement.

Officer Caudill thanked the city for allowing him to be a part of this organization for the past eleven years. He stated that we have an outstanding Police Department with outstanding officers, and this is a good city to work for. He thanked his family and most importantly his wife who has been with him for the past 29 years, supporting him on most of his decisions. He will miss a lot of the officers and everyone he worked with. Les Caudill was congratulated with a round of applause.

**Municipal Order #09-09** was read, **re-appointing Reverend Tom Smith to the Cold Spring Board of Ethics, term to expire December 31, 2012.** Stuart Oehrle made a motion for approval and Lou Gerding seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion carried.**

A carry over item from the last caucus meeting was the prioritization of roads needing work or reconstruction within the city. Administrative Officer Michael Vank gave an update. He and members of the Public Works Department went down every street in the city to get a good look at them. The original mission was to identify twenty-five of the worst streets in the city, which the Public Works Committee could then reduce down to ten. Then they could possibly get some professional assistance in identifying which streets should be done first. After studying the streets they determined that only a small handful really needed any major work, and based on their review they decided that they were better off just focusing on the two or three streets that were in rough condition. The staff has determined that Founders Court is the street that needs immediate attention, which is in the budget for this fiscal year. We can make some immediate repairs on several other streets.

Mayor Stoeber stated that the recommendation is to proceed with Founders Court for a total replacement, and getting bids in February with replacement before July. He verified with council that this meets with their approval. Stuart Oehrle verified with Brandon Voelker that a motion is not necessary for this recommendation, and the only motion necessary would be to accept the bid.

Brenda Helton questioned how the city went about estimating the number of streets to be replaced in the strategic plan. Mayor Stoeber stated that it isn't so much as the number of streets, but an allocation of one million dollars needed for each mile of street replacement. This is part of the budgeting process, and the next strategic plan is two years from now.

Councilwoman Helton voiced her concern about waiting two or three years to replace Downing Street when we will have to continue spending money doing patchwork. It is like throwing good money after bad.

Mayor Stoeber replied that there is no denying that. Early estimates of total replacement are a quarter of a million to three hundred thousand dollars. In looking at the current budget for street replacement, that was in consideration but Founders Court was within the budget constraints in order to keep the budget balanced for this year. Certainly the street is not forgotten, but for that much money it is probably going to have to wait until the next million dollar street plan, unless council wishes it to be brought up next year in the budgeting process. The city is not prepared to spend this much money without significant borrowing.

Stuart Oehrle stated that it is worth bringing up when we are going over our next budget, to get a feel of where we are going to be at fiscally.

The next item on the agenda was animal control review, contract and procedures. Animal Control Officer Terri Baker was present and addressed council. She stated that she serves three hours every week in Cold Spring and her goal is to spend some time everyday in each of the eight cities that she covers. She stated that some areas of our animal control ordinance are outdated, especially in referencing the impoundment of animals. This is unnecessary since it is already a county ordinance. Our ordinance only needs wording stating that in order to reclaim an impounded dog or cat, you have to pay an appropriate fee, fine and any other requirements. The ordinance has a lot of old language that should be purged. Also, Ms. Baker strongly recommends that we adopt a spay and neuter incentive ordinance which the other seven cities already have. If she picks up a dog or cat that is not spayed or neutered, then there is an extra \$50 fine placed on that animal. If the owner chooses to spay or neuter their animal within thirty days, then that \$50 is returned to them. Basically it is an incentive ordinance that shows that we think it is an important thing to do. If an animal is spayed or neutered, they are less likely to roam or attack, and they are statistically less dangerous and are more likely to stay healthy.

Ms. Baker stated that she recently learned at an animal control conference that she is not allowed to transport wildlife. If an animal stuck in a trap, she can let it loose, but she can't transport it to a different location. It is against state law, mainly because if that animal is diseased, then they are transporting that disease somewhere else. That is why the laws are in place. There are nuisance and wildlife trappers who are legally allowed to remove fur bearing nuisance wildlife, which they will do for a fee. The animal control officer can get an obviously sick animal and remove those, but that animal will be euthanized, which she is certified to do herself. If the animal is posing a threat to the public she will respond to those, but she cannot respond to animals being in someone's garbage or under their porch. That is a job for the licensed wildlife trappers. Ms. Baker also stated that we should have some type of dangerous animal ordinance. If there is an animal which has a history of being dangerous to people or other animals, this ordinance would allow more leeway to put restrictions on them, such as not letting the animal be kept or chained up outside.

Mayor Stoeber questioned if there are certain times or patterns when she is in the city. Terri Baker stated that it is sporadic in order to avoid people realizing her schedule. Then they would know when they can let their animals roam without fear of capture. She normally works from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday. A callout would be if there is an emergency situation only. The Animal Control Officer has to respond anytime they receive calls from the police or fire department.

Stuart Oehrle stated that it would be worthwhile to get information together for updates to our animal control ordinances which were just suggested. Terri Baker will put some samples of wording together for our administrative officer to bring to the January caucus for general discussion, along with an explanation of the animal control board costs.

Sandy Ross made a motion to adjourn the special December 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting, and Stuart Oehrle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Approved:**

**City Clerk:**

**Mayor:**